

## *District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers*



**July is Parks and Recreation Month!** If you are looking for some family fun this summer, please check <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/life>. For information on summer camps offered by our award-winning Parks and Recreation Department, see <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/summer>.

**Summer Schedule** – The City Commission is on summer recess through August 18<sup>th</sup>. At a Special Commission Meeting on **Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>** at 6 PM, City Hall - First Floor Chambers, we will discuss the proposed FY 2014 budget, millage rate, and fire fee, among other topics, such as the **Wave Streetcar** Special Assessment (2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing).

**City Budget Hearings** – **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** at 6 PM, City Hall - First Floor Chambers. We've held the property tax rate steady for six years and haven't raised the fire fee since 2008. To balance the FY 2014 budget without raising property taxes, the City Manager proposes a \$90 increase in the fire fee paid by homeowners (from \$135 to \$225). Unlike past practices, this would fully fund all fire services. A similar 67% increase would be imposed on businesses. The Budget Advisory Board supports the Manager's proposal and also recommends a 10% increase in our property tax rate to help pay for needed physical and technological repairs and improvements. I would welcome your input on these issues.

**Marina Lofts and the Rain Tree** – This proposed project and the status of the Rain Tree in the Tarpon River neighborhood are set for the **August 20<sup>th</sup>** Commission Meeting, beginning at 6 PM, City Hall - First Floor Chambers.

**Shippey Shape-up** – I want to thank everyone who helped spruce up the Judge Shippey House at 220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup>/Nugent Avenue in Sailboat Bend on June 15<sup>th</sup>. All that hard work really paid off! Special thanks to the volunteers from Boyd H. Anderson High School and to former Commissioner Tim Smith for spearheading the effort.

**Back To School Supply Drive** – Through July 31<sup>st</sup>, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue and the Firefighters Benevolent Association are accepting donations of school supplies for needy children. For details and drop-off locations, please see the flyer on the City's website at <http://fortlauderdale.gov/news/2013/pdf/070113back2schooldrive.pdf>.

### **Transportation and Connectivity** –

- **Sun Trolley** – The mid-year ridership report, dated July 2, 2013, notes that through May 2013, the Sun Trolley has carried a system-wide total of 336,190 passengers, a 47% increase over this point last year.
- **B-Cycle Bike Share Program** – Since its start in mid-December 2011, there were 9,458 bike rentals for the nine months of FY 2012, and 6,164 bike rentals for the first six months of FY 2013.

**Staff Transitions** – After 11 years as our City Attorney, **Harry Stewart, Esq.**, is stepping down as of July 11<sup>th</sup>. It has been a pleasure to work with such an esteemed colleague as Harry on the diverse legal issues we face as a city. We welcome our new City Attorney, **Cynthia Everett, Esq.**, who came on board July 1<sup>st</sup>. Recently, Cynthia served as the Village Attorney for Pinecrest, FL, and has been in private practice for 14 years.

**Fire Chief Jeffrey Justinak** is retiring after a 25-year career of providing high-quality fire, emergency medical, and ocean rescue services to the City. As of July 13<sup>th</sup>, the Interim Fire Chief will be **Robert Hoecherl**, now Deputy Fire Chief, who has 26 years of service to the City. Please join me in wishing Harry and Jeff a Happy Retirement!

### **Of Interest** –

- **Upcoming Telephone Town Hall Meetings** – July 10, 7 PM: District II Commissioner Trantalis; August 22, 7 PM: Vice Mayor/District I Commissioner Roberts; September 24, 7 PM: District III Commissioner DuBose. Mine is set for October 21, 7 PM. To participate in or listen to any or all of these, please call 855-269-4484 toll free.
- **New Summer Hours for Las Olas Sunday Market** – This summer, the market is open from **9 AM to 2 PM** every Sunday on the plaza at YOLO, East Las Olas and SE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There is \$2 parking for market shoppers entering the 350 Las Olas Place Garage, from the north side of SE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, before Noon. For information on what the market has to offer, see <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/fl-lauderdale-las-olas-sunday-market-20130621,0,6910016.story>.
- **Saturday Nite Alive** – Saturday evenings, 7 - 11 PM, through August 3, on the beach at A1A from East Las Olas and Castillo Street.
- **Bank of America Starlight Musicals** – Friday evenings, 7 - 10 PM, through August 2, on the football field at Holiday Park, 1300 East Sunrise Boulevard. <http://fortlauderdale.gov/events/starlight/starlight.htm>.
- **My Staff Contact is MJ Matthews, phone 954-828-5028 or e-mail [mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov).**